

Is a biannual newsletter published by the Office of Beautification Programs of the North Carolina Department of Transportation. It is mailed to Adopt-A-Highway volunteers and other interested groups to keep them informed about litter control and prevention activities.

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2008

Dates to Remember

Spring Litter Sweep
April 19–May 3

Earth Day
April 22

Memorial Day
May 26

Independence Day
July 4

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Litterature

Biannual Newsletter

Winter 2008

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Featured Group

Snow Creek Masonic Lodge #571

James McLelland is the key contact for the Snow Creek Masonic Lodge #571, an Adopt-A-Highway group located in Statesville. McLelland has been a member of the lodge since 1950 and currently serves as treasurer. In 2000, both James and his brother, George, were recognized for their 50 years as lodge members.

SCML #571 adopted two miles of Dobson Farm Road (State Road 1898) from Wilkesboro Highway (S.R. 115) to North Chipley Ford Road in Iredell County. The group's first contract is dated Feb. 24, 1991 and they are celebrating 17 consecutive years of volunteering through AAH.

Other members who participate in the cleanups or serve as lodge leaders include current Lodge Master Jim Murff, past Lodge Master E. N. Sloan, past Lodge Master James Hamby, Senior Warden Leonard Bunton, Junior Warden Wesley Davidson, Senior Deacon Von Sprankle and Bill Johnson.

A typical AAH cleanup begins with McLelland informing the lodge members of the next scheduled cleanup date. Usually five or six members



FRONT ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: DON MCLELLAND, JACK MCLELLAND, JIM HAMBY, LEONARD BUNTON, BILL JOHNSON

BACK ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: YATES MARLOW, KARI MEISSNER, E.N. SLOAN, JIM MURPH

will meet at the lodge to pick up supplies such as safety vests, gloves and bags. McLelland will then drive the members to their adopted site.

The group works in two teams and each team begins picking up litter from opposite ends of their adopted stretch of Dobson Farm Road. Both teams work toward the center of the adopted stretch and the cleanup is complete when they meet.

Following the cleanup, McLelland shuttles the group back to the lodge. The group will then call in the cleanup report and request that NCDOT pick up the bags. SCML #571 also separately recycles some items found during cleanups, primarily drink containers.

When asked about the most

unusual piece of litter they had found, McLelland mentioned an unopened six pack of beer and a local newspaper delivery box and its post.

The SCML #571 asks all North Carolinians to properly secure their loads and to refrain from littering to help keep the highways cleaner and North Carolina beautiful.

From the NCDOT Office of Beautification Programs, we wish James McLelland a happy 80th birthday on Feb. 22, and thank the SCML #571 AAH group for their many years of dedicated service in keeping their community free of litter.

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Safety Tip: Participants are reminded to warm up by stretching before picking up litter and to drink plenty of water during the cleanup.

In an effort to educate motorists on how to properly secure loads in truck and trailer beds, the N.C. Department of Transportation, in partnership with N.C. Keep America Beautiful Inc., hosted Tarp Day on Sept. 29, 2007, at 45 solid waste facilities statewide.

In 2006, Iredell County provided tarps to landfill customers. Based on their success in reducing litter, the NCDOT and NC KAB expanded the initiative to include landfills statewide.

As part of this initiative, landfill employees, with the cooperation of local law enforcement officers, provided tarps to landfill patrons to cover their truck and trailer loads. They also distributed brochures and car litterbags imprinted with a message emphasizing the importance of properly

securing and covering loads.

A total of 6,000 tarps were distributed at solid waste facilities in Alamance, Alexander, Anson, Avery, Bladen, Brunswick, Burke, Cabarrus, Cherokee, Cleveland, Craven, Cumberland, Duplin, Durham, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gaston, Granville, Henderson, Hertford, Iredell, Jackson, Johnston, Lee, Macon, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Moore, Nash, New Hanover, Onslow, Orange, Pasquotank, Richmond, Rockingham, Rowan, Rutherford, Sampson, Scotland, Transylvania, Wake, Wayne and Wilson counties.

The blue tarps were 8-feet wide by 10-feet long and cost \$2 each. They were paid for with funds from the sale of litter prevention vehicle license plates.

Drought Busting Tips:

As Gov. Mike Easley has directed, North Carolinians should stop non-essential uses of water such as watering lawns and washing houses, sidewalks and automobiles. Here are some other tips for conserving water:

- Turn off water while lathering, shampooing, shaving and brushing your teeth;
- Take a shower instead of a bath and keep it as short as possible;
- Collect water from the bath or shower while waiting for it to heat up and use it to water plants; and
- Keep all plumbing in good condition. Repair leaks and drips.
- Run washing machines and dishwashers only with full loads;
- Do not rinse dishes before putting them in the dishwasher.
- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap for cold drinks.

"Most Unusual Litter" Contest Winners

The winning items of the 2007 Fall Litter Sweep "Most Unusual Litter" contest include:
First Place: Medical I.V. bag found in Raleigh;
Second Place: Police arrest record found in Holly Springs; and
Third Place: Clay mask found in Arden.

Photos can be viewed by visiting the Office of Beautification Web site at www.ncdot.org/~beautification and clicking on Litter Sweep.



1st Prize Winner
Medical I.V. Bag
Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Sorority, Inc.
Raleigh, NC



2nd Prize Winner
Police Arrest Record
Number Crunchers, Inc.
Holly Springs, NC



3rd Prize Winner
Clay Mask
Eaton Corporation
Arden, NC

AAH Coordinator Profile

By George Kapetanakis

James Burgess:
Transportation Technician III
Years as AAH Coordinator: 10

Joy Martin:
Processing Assistant III,
Assistant AAH Coordinator

Highway Division 12
Counties: Alexander and
Iredell
Location: Statesville

James Burgess came to the N.C. Department of Transportation on Nov. 1, 1997 as a Transportation Technician I from the N.C. Department of Correction facility in Alexander County where he was a correction officer. He currently holds the position of Transportation Technician III.

As a Tech III, Burgess is involved in outdoor advertising, project inspection, driveway and subdivision review, new road additions and encroachment work. He is also the Adopt-A-Highway coordinator for Alexander and Iredell counties.

During his years as Adopt-A-Highway coordinator, Burgess has observed that participants in the program are very diverse. The volunteers are made up of everyone from seniors who adopt a roadway in memory of someone, to youth and church groups.

As his responsibilities widened, Burgess relied on Processing Assistant III Joy Martin to continue administering the day-to-day activities of the AAH program.



Joy Martin and James Burgess

Martin became a temporary NCDOT employee in June 1992 and within several months became a full-time employee. Since 1993, Martin has been involved in working with AAH program volunteers. She is also responsible for oversize permits and various office duties.

Currently, Martin administers 12 AAH groups in Alexander County and 63 groups in Iredell County. These groups perform cleanups on 158 miles of adopted roadways.

Here are a few questions and answers from our recent conversation:

George Kapetanakis: "Joy, what has impressed you through the years about the Adopt-A-Highway program?"

Joy Martin: "The program updated the online application and reporting process. Prior to the improvements, multiple instructions and system screens were needed to provide a single printable report. Today, the process provides near instant access to reports. The new program is

much easier to use and simpler to pull data for analysis."

GK: "What is your biggest challenge?"
JM: "It is receiving timely cleanup reports from various groups. Many groups continue to perform their cleanups on schedule, but fail to report the number of volunteers that participated, the number of hours worked or the number of bags filled. This information demonstrates the value and contribution that the volunteers offer to the state."

GK: "What is the most unusual litter found in your area?"
JM: "I recall several items, but a couch comes to mind as well as a washing machine."

GK: "Is there anything else you would like to add?"
JM: "I think it is important that each of the Adopt-A-Highway group volunteers know they are appreciated for their time and work devoted to keeping their community roadways clean and litter free. Their efforts make North Carolina look good."

James and Joy, from all of us in the NCDOT and the Office of Beautification Programs we want to congratulate you on your years of dedicated service to NCDOT, the AAH program and the AAH groups in Alexander and Iredell Counties.

We also want to thank all of the Adopt-A-Highway groups for keeping their part of North Carolina roadsides clean, green and safe for everyone to enjoy.